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LETTER DATED 24 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint statement of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation on Tajikistan adopted at the talks in Tehran on 22 and 23 December 1996 between the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, A. A. Velayati, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Y. M. Primakov (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. TAKHT-RAVANCHI
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of the
Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations

(Signed) Sergey LAVROV
Ambassador
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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement by the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran on Tajikistan

At talks held in Tehran on 22 and 23 December 1996, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, A. A. Velayati, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Y. M. Primakov, discussed the current situation in Tajikistan and the course of the talks on the establishment of peace between the Government and the United Tajik Opposition.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries expressed the conviction that settlement of the Tajik conflict and the attainment of peace in Tajikistan are possible only through talks, taking into account the interests of all political forces and regions in Tajikistan and on the basis of mutual concessions.

In this context, they greatly welcomed the meeting in Moscow between the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, E. Rakhmonov, and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition, A. Nuri, and called on the parties to reach agreement, on which peace and stability in Tajikistan depend. In this connection, special significance is attached to the agreement of the sides in Tajikistan on a complete ceasefire and the formation of organs of authority.

They welcome the decision to hold the next round of talks in Tehran in the near future for the purpose of continuing discussion of the practical issues associated with the Moscow agreement.

The Ministers noted that considerable progress has already been made, marked by the Tehran Agreement of 17 September 1994 and the agreements reached at Ashgabat on 19 and 20 July and Khusdekh on 11 December 1996. Everything must be done to move ahead with a view to comprehensive settlement of the conflict and national reconciliation.

The Ministers expressed great appreciation of the efforts made by the United Nations to achieve a settlement of the conflict in Tajikistan. They called on the sides in Tajikistan to cooperate fully with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and with the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation declare their countries' readiness, in cooperation with the United Nations and the observer States at the inter-Tajik talks, to continue actively to promote the attainment of peace and national reconciliation in Tajikistan.